

10/695,248

NAROP0335US

Amendments to Specification

Please amend the paragraph of page 1, line 28 to page 2, line 8 as follows:

Another type of induction melting furnace is the channel furnace. The difference between the two furnace types is principally in the placement of the induction coil and the metal bath. In coreless furnaces, the coil completely surrounds the crucible. In a channel furnace, a separate loop inductor is used which is attached to the main crucible which contains the major portion of the metal bath. A vertical channel furnace may be considered a large bull ladle or crucible with an ~~and~~ inductor attached to the bottom. Accumulations of slag over time will typically occur in the bottom inductor loop or throat area. When this happens, insufficient metal flow through the inductor loop hampers heat transfer and interferes with the melting operation. It is very difficult to remove accumulations of slag from the inductor loop or throat area. Often, the furnace will have to be taken out of operation and a new inductor installed. Typically, inductor life may be as long as 18 months. However, if slag build up occurs, the useful life may be reduced to only a few months.

Please amend the paragraph of page 9, lines 6-8 as follows:

The flux of the present invention is environmentally superior to fluorspar since fluorspar based fluxes generate gaseous fluoride ~~fluorides~~ compounds which are released at high temperatures.